

CLAIMS

1. A network switch, comprising:
5 a configurable port for connecting an edge device; and
an application running on the network switch, for allowing an administrator to selectively configure the port to support either a wired edge device or a wireless edge device.
- 10 2. The network switch of claim 1, wherein the application permits the administrator to create a profile associated with one or more ports of the network switch.
3. The network switch of claim 1, wherein the application permits the
15 administrator to enter configuration information corresponding to the edge device.
4. The network switch of claim 3, wherein the configuration information includes information selected from the group consisting of radio frequency (RF) parameters, security parameters and a combination of the forgoing parameters.
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5. The network switch of claim 3, further comprising:
means for downloading the configuration information to the edge device when the edge device is connected to the port.
- 25 6. The network switch of claim 1, further comprising:
a database for storing configuration information associated with the port.
7. The network switch of claim 1, wherein the port is an Ethernet port.

8. The network switch of claim 1, wherein the wireless edge device is an access point.
9. The network switch of claim 1, further comprising:
5 a memory for storing a software image corresponding to the edge device; and
means for downloading the software image to the edge device when the edge device is connected to the port.
10. A network system, comprising:
10 a network switch including
a port,
a software application for allowing a user to input configuration information associated with the port,
a memory for storing the configuration information and a software
15 image; and
a wireless edge device including a program for downloading the configuration information and the software image when the wireless edge device is connected to the port.
- 20 11. The network system of claim 10, wherein the port is configurable to support wired and wireless edge devices.
12. The network system of claim 10, wherein the network switch includes a plurality of ports.
- 25 13. The network system of claim 12, wherein a profile including the configuration information is associated with one or more ports of the network switch.

14. The network system of claim 10, wherein the configuration information includes information selected from the group consisting of radio frequency (RF) parameters, security parameters and a combination of the forgoing parameters.
- 5 15. The network system of claim 10, wherein the port is an Ethernet port.
16. The network system of claim 10, wherein the wireless edge device is an access point.
- 10 17. In a network system, a method of configuring an edge device, comprising:
receiving configuration information at a network switch;
storing the configuration information at the network switch;
associating the configuration information with a port of the network
switch;
15 configuring the port to support either a wired edge device or a wireless edge
device;
downloading the configuration information to the edge device when the edge
device is connected to the port; and
configuring the edge device based on the downloaded configuration
20 information.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
creating a profile associated with one or more ports of the network switch.
- 25 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the configuration information includes
information selected from the group consisting of radio frequency (RF) parameters,
security parameters and a combination of the forgoing parameters.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein the port is an Ethernet port.

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21. The method of claim 17, wherein the edge device is a wireless access point.
22. The method of claim 17, further comprising:
downloading a software image to the edge device when the edge device is
5 connected to the port.
23. A network switch, comprising: /
means for connecting to an edge device; and
means for selectively configuring the connecting means to connect to either a
10 wired edge device or a wireless edge device.
24. The network switch of claim 23, further comprising:
means for creating a profile associated with the connecting means.
- 15 25. The network switch of claim 23, further comprising:
means for storing configuration information.
26. The network switch of claim 23, further comprising:
means for downloading configuration information to the edge device when the
20 edge device is attached to the connecting means.
27. The network switch of claim 26, wherein the configuration information
includes information selected from the group consisting of radio frequency (RF)
parameters, security parameters and a combination of the forgoing parameters.
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28. The network switch of claim 23, further comprising:
means for downloading a software image to the edge device when the edge
device is attached to the connecting means.
- 30 29. A network switching comprising: /

one or more ports;
a memory for storing a software image executable by a wireless edge device;
an administrator interface for associating the software image with at least one
of the ports; and

5 an application for downloading the software image to the wireless edge device
when the edge device is plugged into the port.

30. The network switch of claim 29, wherein the memory stores a plurality of
software images and the administrator interface includes means for selectively
10 associating one of the software images with the at least one of the ports.

31. The network switch of claim 29, further comprising means for upgrading the
software image.

15 32. The network switch of claim 31, wherein the administrator interface allows the
upgraded software image to be associated with the at least one of the ports.